

Message Text

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APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 292092 TOSEC 310326

NODIS

CHEROKEE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, KN, US

SUBJECT: BHUTTO LETTER ON KIM IL-SUNG APPROACH

1. YOU HAVE RECEIVED BY COURIER A LETTER FROM BHUTTO TO YOU REPORTING MESSAGE WHICH HE HAS RECEIVED FROM KIM IL-SUNG. SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGE IS REITERATION OF NORTH KOREAN PITCH WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES FOR DIRECT US-NORTH KOREAN BILATERAL TALKS, WHILE HOLDING OUT POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL INCLUSION OF ROK AND PRC.

2. IN ADDITION, BHUTTO REFERS TO A FAILURE OF AN ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A LUNCHEON MEETING WITH A HIGH NORTH KOREAN OFFICIAL. BHUTTO ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WAS WRITING DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER CONVEYING KIM'S MESSAGE.

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3. WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY FROM PAKISTANI EMBASSY THAT

LETTER FROM BHUTTO HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO ONE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S OFFICES IN WASHINGTON. ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT LETTER CONVEYS THE KIM IL-SUNG MESSAGE AS DESCRIBED IN BHUTTO'S LETTER TO YOU BUT DOES NOT REFER TO REPORTED ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE LUNCHEON.

4. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS FAIR POSSIBILITY THAT BHUTTO APPROACH ON BEHALF OF KIM IL-SUNG WILL GET OUT. I RECOMMEND THAT IN ANY REPLY TO BHUTTO WE REITERATE AGAIN OUR STANDING POSITION THAT WE CANNOT MEET WITH NORTH KOREANS IN ANY FORUM WHICH EXCLUDES THE ROKG. IN ADDITION, AS YOU PREVIOUSLY TOLD FAHMY, WE COULD ALSO POINT OUT IF NORTH KOREANS WERE TO AGREE TO BEGIN TALKS ON A TRILATERAL (US-ROK-NK) OR A QUADRILATERAL (US-ROK-NK-PRC) BASIS, THEN IN THAT CONTEXT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO TAKE UP MATTERS NOT CONCERNING KOREA DIRECTLY WITH THE NORTH KOREANS.

5. PARTICULARLY GIVEN OUR CURRENT STRAINS WITH ROKG OVER KCIA DEFECTION, I ALSO BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT WE QUICKLY INFORM ROKG OF THIS APPROACH BEFORE IT GETS OUT IN ONE FASHION OR ANOTHER.

6. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED CABLES TO BHUTTO AND SEOUL ALONG ABOVE LINES.

7. RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU APPROVE THE ATTACHED MESSAGES TO ISLAMABAD AND SEOUL.

8. TELEGRAM ACTION ISLAMABAD QUOTE: FOR AMBASSADOR

YOU SHOULD DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO. QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR NOVEMBER 21 LETTER CONVEYING THE MESSAGE WHICH PRESIDENT KIM IL-SUNG CONVEYED TO YOU. I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL WITH REGARD TO THE KOREAN QUESTION.

AS YOU KNOW, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES
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HAVE REPEATEDLY INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH NORTH KOREA TO DISCUSS WAYS OF PRESERVING THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND REDUCING TENSIONS IN KOREA. SIMILARLY, WE HAVE URGED THE RESUMPTION OF SERIOUS DIRECT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. AT THE SAME TIME, I KNOW YOU APPRECIATE THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT AGREE TO MEET WITH NORTH KOREA IN ANY FORUM WHICH EXCLUDES THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

CONSEQUENTLY, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO USE YOUR GOOD OFFICES TO URGE THE NORTH KOREANS TO RESUME THE DIRECT NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AS WELL AS TO RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO OUR CURRENT PROPOSALS FOR A CONFERENCE ON KOREA. IF YOU BELIEVE IT USEFUL, YOU MIGHT ALSO POINT OUT TO THE NORTH KOREANS THAT IF THEY WERE TO AGREE TO DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AND IF IT WISHES THE PRC, THEN IN THAT CONTEXT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY WITH THE NORTH KOREANS BILATERAL MATTERS THAT DO NOT CONCERN THE KOREAN SITUATION. I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR VERY KIND WORDS AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR CLOSE FRIENDSHIP IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

WITH BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, END QUOTE.

9. TELEGRAM ACTION SEOUL, INFO ISLAMABAD. QUOTE: FOR AMBASSADOR SUBJECT: BHUTTO LETTER CONVEYING MESSAGE FROM KIM IL-SUNG

(1) PAKISTANI EMBASSY HERE HAS DELIVERED LETTER TO SECRETARY FROM PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO CONVEYING MESSAGE FROM KIM IL-SUNG.

(2) AS CONVEYED BY BHUTTO, SUBSTANCE OF KIM IL-SUNG MESSAGE IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE BEST COURSE OPEN IS TO INITIATE TALKS AT BILATERAL LEVEL BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES. IF THE MODALITIES ARE MUTUALLY AGREED, THESE COULD BE FOLLOWED LATER BY TRI-LATERAL TALKS WITH THE INCLUSION OF SOUTH KOREA, AND EVEN
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QUADRILATERAL TALKS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CHINA.

(B) THESE TALKS CAN BE INITIATED AND HELD AT ANY DESIRED LEVEL.

(C) IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN ACCORDING TO HIM (KIM IL-SUNG) THERE IS UNBRIDLED REPRESSION IN SOUTH KOREA, TRILATERAL TALKS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

(D) DIRECT TALKS BILATERALLY WITH PARK CHUNG HEE WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY AFTER THE RELEASE OF THE IMPRISONED POLITICAL LEADERS, ESPECIALLY THE 18 PERSONS INCLUDING THE FORMER PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, AND THE STOPPAGE OF THE PRESENT VIRULENT ANTI-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA.

(3) IN ADDITION, BHUTTO ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WAS WRITING DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER CONVEYING KIM'S MESSAGE AND PAKISTANI EMBASSY HAS DELIVERED THAT MESSAGE.

(4) KIM'S APPROACH AS CONVEYED TO BHUTTO IS ESSENTIALLY SAME PITCH AS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES, I.E., PROPOSAL FOR DIRECT US-NORTH KOREAN DISCUSSIONS WITH POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE INCLUSION OF ROK BUT UNDER UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS. IN REPLY TO BHUTTO, SECRETARY HAS REITERATED OUR STANDING POSITION THAT WE CANNOT MEET IN ANY FORUM WHICH EXCLUDES THE ROKG.

(5) FOR SEOUL: WE BELIEVE THERE POSSIBILITY IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER THIS LATEST NORTH KOREAN APPROACH MAY SURFACE PUBLICLY AND WE WOULD NOT WISH ROKG SURPRISED. CONSEQUENTLY, AMBASSADOR SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONVEY TO BLUE HOUSE SUBSTANCE OF BHUTTO APPROACH AND OUR REPLY AS SUMMARIZED IN PARA 4 ABOVE. END QUOTE.

ROBINSON

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